



LABOR MARKET DIMENSIONS

FEBRUARY, 1991

Maryland Department of Economic and Employment Development
Office of Labor Market Analysis and Information
1100 North Eutaw Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

William Donald Schaefer, Governor
J. Randall Evans, Secretary

LABOR FORCE DEVELOPMENTS

With seasonal job creation at a near standstill and layoffs continuing to drag down employment levels in a number of industries, February's labor market activity provided a clear indication that the economic downturn has extended into the new year. The stability of January's unemployment rate was interrupted in February as joblessness moved up by 0.4 percentage points to 6.5 percent, reaching its highest level in eight years. Normally, very little change, if any, is noted in February's unemployment rate. Nationally, the jobless rate also rose over the month from 7.0 percent to 7.2 percent.

The upturn in Maryland's jobless estimate, which added slightly more than 9,000 workers to the unemployment rolls, left more than 161,000 people without jobs during February. This marked the sixth consecutive month of rising unemployment in Maryland. Following a seasonal decline in August 1990, unemployment broke away from normal patterns and has been trending upward ever since.

	February 1991	January 1991	February 1990
Civilian Labor Force	2,489,630	2,476,108	2,527,231
Total Employment	2,328,512	2,324,021	2,422,332
Total Unemployment	161,118	152,087	104,599
Unemployment Rate	6.5	6.1	4.1
National Unemployment Rate	7.2	7.0	5.8

During February, the unemployment count rose despite the fact that the number of jobholders also increased by nearly 4,500. February's employment increase, however, resulted primarily from recall activity, specifically in education, rather than from actual new job generation. This left fewer opportunities available for incoming jobseekers, causing the seasonal increase in the labor force to fall disproportionately upon the unemployment side of the ledger.

The impact of the recession on statewide economics is particularly evident when examining labor market developments over the past year. Since February 1990, the number of employed residents has declined by more than 94,100. Nearly two-thirds of this decline was reflected on the unemployment rolls, causing the statewide unemployment rate to rise significantly from February 1990's rate of 4.1 percent.

INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS

Maryland's employment situation showed very little improvement during February. After falling by nearly 70,000 jobs, industry payrolls headed back up in February, with recall activity in educational services and state and local education supporting this gain. While some private sector employers expanded their payrolls, normal seasonal hiring patterns failed to materialize. In all, Maryland's industry payrolls rose by just 8,200 jobs in February, an increase less than half February 1990's gain of 19,100.

The construction industry continued to turn in a poor performance, with further job losses lowering employment to 145,100. This marks the seventh consecutive month of declining employment in this industry. While weather conditions were a factor in the job declines among heavy contractors, layoffs reported by general building contractors reflected the current posture in the commercial and residential building markets. Countering these losses somewhat, employment among special trade contractors rose by 500 jobs during February. Although rising, employment in this component, at 92,300, has dropped considerably from last February's job count of 94,600.

Employment in manufacturing continued to tumble downward with losses reported at about 1,300. Declines were heaviest in durable goods where job losses in primary metals, electronic equipment and transportation equipment, when combined, accounted for slightly more than 90.0 percent of the overall manufacturing decline. Nondurables held fairly steady as job declines in rubber, apparel and paper products were countered by gains in the food processing industry. In spite of layoffs, the average workweek for production workers in Maryland's manufacturing industries rose slightly to 40.3 hours in February. This increase, coupled with a \$.05 rise in hourly pay rates, raised weekly earnings by about \$4.36 to \$475.54 in February. Workweeks were lengthened and paychecks increased in both the durable and nondurable components. In durable goods, however, a number of industries cutback work schedules, with the largest reduction reported in fabricated metals. A loss of overtime hours in this industry caused weekly paychecks to drop sharply, by almost \$20.00, to \$425.01 in February. In nondurables, on the other hand, all industries, with the exception of paper products, reported a lengthening in workweeks. The largest increase occurred in rubber products as employers sought to maintain required production levels with fewer workers.

Within the service-producing sector, individual industry performance was mixed. Activity was, however, centered primarily in retail trade, services and government. In retail trade, post holiday layoffs continued to dominate the industry. In all, about 4,500 jobs were pared from payrolls during February, with slightly more than 75.0 percent of this reduction occurring in general merchandise stores. Layoff activity was also noted in apparel, food and miscellaneous retail stores. The impact of these declines was minimized somewhat by an upswing in employment at eating and drinking establishments. Meanwhile, in services, a number of industries increased their job count, including business, amusement, personal and health services. The largest increase, of about 2,900 jobs, occurred in educational services as colleges and universities reopened following semester breaks. The benefit of this recall activity also elevated job counts in state and local education during February.

MARYLAND
NONAGRICULTURAL PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT* BY INDUSTRY
BY PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT
(IN THOUSANDS)
FEBRUARY 1991

Industry	February 1991	January 1991	February 1990
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	2,131.0	2,122.8	2,135.5
Goods Producing	347.4	349.1	361.1
Mining	2.0	2.0	1.9
Construction	145.1	145.5	152.0
Heavy Construction	14.8	15.0	16.3
Manufacturing	200.3	201.6	207.2
Durable Goods	104.6	105.7	110.6
Lumber & Wood Products	3.9	4.0	3.9
Stone, Clay, & Glass Products	8.0	7.9	8.3
Concrete, Gypsum, Plaster	5.0	5.0	5.2
Other Stone, Clay, & Glass	3.0	2.9	3.1
Primary Metal Industries	10.4	10.8	10.9
Blast Furnaces	8.6	9.0	9.1
Fabricated Metal Products	9.8	9.9	9.8
Fabricated Structural Metal Products	4.1	4.1	4.1
Other Fabricated Metal Products	4.6	4.7	4.6
Industrial Machinery	16.0	15.7	17.2
Refrigeration & Service Mach.	2.2	1.9	2.5
Other Industrial Machinery & Equipment	9.5	9.5	10.0
Electronic Equipment	14.8	15.1	16.7
Communications Equipment	4.3	4.5	4.5
Electronic Component	3.7	3.7	4.5
Other Electronic Equipment	6.8	6.9	7.7
Transportation Equipment	12.9	13.2	13.9
Motor Vehicles	5.2	5.5	5.4
Other Transportation	3.0	3.0	3.2
Instruments & Related	23.3	23.5	24.4
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	2.7	2.7	2.7
Nondurable Goods	95.7	95.9	96.6
Food & Kindred Products	24.5	24.2	24.1
Meat Products	6.0	5.9	5.7
Beverages	4.1	4.2	4.2
Other Food & Kindred	9.7	9.5	9.8
Textile Mill, Apparel	9.7	9.7	10.0
Paper & Allied Products	9.5	9.6	9.4
Printing & Publishing	28.1	28.2	28.8
Chemicals and Allied Products	13.7	13.7	13.8
Rubber & Miscellaneous	8.2	8.4	8.3
Other Nondurable Goods	2.0	2.1	2.2

Industry	February 1991	January 1991	February 1990
Service Producing	1,783.6	1,773.7	1,774.4
Transportation & Public Utilities	99.7	99.8	99.0
Transportation	55.4	55.5	55.0
Railroad Transportation	4.4	4.4	4.6
Trucking & Warehousing	28.0	28.4	27.7
Communications & Utilities	44.3	44.3	44.0
Communications	28.0	27.9	27.9
Electric, Gas, Sanitary	16.3	16.4	16.1
Trade	514.1	518.7	517.5
Wholesale Trade	108.3	108.4	108.4
Retail Trade	405.8	410.3	409.1
Building Materials, Garden Supplies	16.5	16.4	16.5
General Merchandise	43.3	46.7	44.3
Food Stores	66.0	66.7	65.0
Eating & Drinking Places	125.5	124.6	126.8
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	131.2	130.9	130.5
Finance	58.0	58.1	58.7
Depository Institutions	42.4	42.6	42.9
Commercial Banks	27.3	27.4	27.7
Insurance	39.2	39.0	38.1
Insurance Carriers	26.2	26.0	25.2
Real Estate	34.0	33.8	33.7
Services	614.4	609.0	607.4
Business Services	132.6	131.7	133.1
Health Services	161.6	161.3	154.8
Hospitals	79.8	79.9	75.7
Legal Services	15.9	15.9	15.8
Educational Services	36.5	33.6	36.2
Private Colleges, Universities	19.0	16.5	18.5
Total Government	424.2	415.3	420.0
Total Federal Government	132.6	132.6	132.9
Department of Defense	47.4	47.2	47.2
Other Federal Government	85.2	85.4	85.7
Total State & Local Government	291.6	282.7	287.1
Total State Government	99.4	96.9	98.6
State Education	32.9	30.4	32.5
Other State Government	66.5	66.5	66.1
Total Local Government	192.2	185.8	188.5
Local Education	116.0	110.2	115.3
Other Local Government	76.2	75.6	73.2

*The count is of jobs, not workers. It includes full and part-time wage earners employed during pay period including the 12th of the month.

NOTE: Figures may not add to totals due to rounding.

Current data preliminary; previous month revised.

Prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN SELECTED MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

FEBRUARY 1991

Industry	AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS		AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS		AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS	
	February 1991	January 1991	February 1991	January 1991	February 1991	January 1991
MARYLAND						
Manufacturing	40.3	40.1	\$475.54	\$471.18	\$11.80	\$11.75
Durable Goods	41.7	41.6	518.75	516.26	12.44	12.41
Lumber and Wood Products	38.6	38.9	344.70	342.32	8.93	8.80
Stone, Clay, and Glass Products	43.2	42.9	500.26	493.78	11.58	11.51
Primary Metal Industries	42.6	42.1	703.75	691.70	16.52	16.43
Blast Furnaces	43.0	42.7	724.55	712.24	16.85	16.68
Fabricated Metals	40.4	41.6	425.01	443.87	10.52	10.67
Industrial Machinery	41.9	41.3	537.58	520.38	12.83	12.60
Electronic Equipment	47.6	45.5	453.63	424.97	9.53	9.34
Transportation Equipment	39.0	39.6	614.64	616.57	15.76	15.57
Instruments and Related Products	39.5	40.3	511.53	526.72	12.95	13.07
Miscellaneous Manufacturing Industries	39.7	40.0	371.99	376.00	9.37	9.40
Nondurable Goods	39.2	38.8	439.04	431.46	11.20	11.12
Food and Kindred Products	39.4	38.9	407.00	395.61	10.33	10.17
Textile Mill, Apparel	35.0	34.0	262.50	253.30	7.50	7.45
Paper and Allied Products	41.6	42.5	488.38	501.50	11.74	11.80
Printing and Publishing	36.4	36.0	491.40	478.80	13.50	13.30
Chemicals and Allied Products	42.7	42.5	546.13	537.63	12.79	12.65
Rubber and Plastic Products	43.6	43.0	436.00	427.85	10.00	9.95
BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA						
Manufacturing	40.7	40.4	\$500.20	\$495.71	\$12.29	\$12.27
Durable Goods	41.2	41.1	540.54	538.82	13.12	13.11
Nondurable Goods	40.2	39.8	459.08	452.13	11.42	11.36

REGIONAL ECONOMICS

BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA

In the Baltimore Metro Area, February's statistics were indicative of the recent cooling in the regional economy. Unemployment in the region shot up by 0.6 percentage points, reaching 7.0 percent in February. About three-fourths of the statewide unemployment increase over the month was reflected in the Metro Area profile. More than 83,300 area residents found themselves without a job during February, up from January's estimate of 76,365. February's jobless increase was driven primarily by expansion in the labor force. Jobless rates climbed throughout the region with the exception of Queen Anne's County where a slight increase in employment, combined with a decline in the labor force, helped to reduce joblessness to 7.2 percent in February. In Harford County where the unemployment rate advanced by nearly 2.0 full percentage points, from 6.9 percent to 8.7 percent, a number of layoffs were reported in manufacturing and construction.

MARYLAND'S D.C. SUBURBS

Unemployment in Maryland's D.C. suburbs, holding at January's rate of 4.5 percent, formed the lower end of the regional jobless ranking. Although the region's unemployment rate remained unaltered, there was considerable movement in the job market. Employment in the region grew by 3,680 in February, representing just over 80.0 percent of the overall statewide increase. As the number of employed suburbanites rose, the region's unemployment rolls dropped back, albeit marginally by 231 persons, lowering the jobless count to 43,959 persons in February. While all of the suburban counties shared in the region's employment increase, Frederick was the only county in which unemployment declines were visible. In Frederick, rising employment, coupled with a slight drop in the labor force, helped to reduce unemployment volume by 324 persons and to lower the jobless rate by 0.4 percentage points to 8.1 percent. Employment in Frederick rose in response to recall activity in education and manufacturing along with hiring in personal and business services.

WESTERN MARYLAND

In Western Maryland, a reduction in the regional labor force was the primary factor responsible for lowering the jobless rate to 11.3 percent in February, down from January's rate of 11.4 percent. Unemployment in the region, while declining, is substantially higher than last February's estimate of 7.5 percent. The benefit of the current jobless decline was restricted solely to Washington County. In Washington, a monthly employment decline of 315 persons, many of whom came from the manufacturing industry, was more than offset by a corresponding decline in the labor force. The net result was a reduction in the county's jobless rate from 10.5 percent to 10.3 percent. Meanwhile, a contrasting picture unfolded in Garrett County whereby employment gains were cancelled out by expansion in the labor force, causing joblessness to advance to 13.3 percent in February.

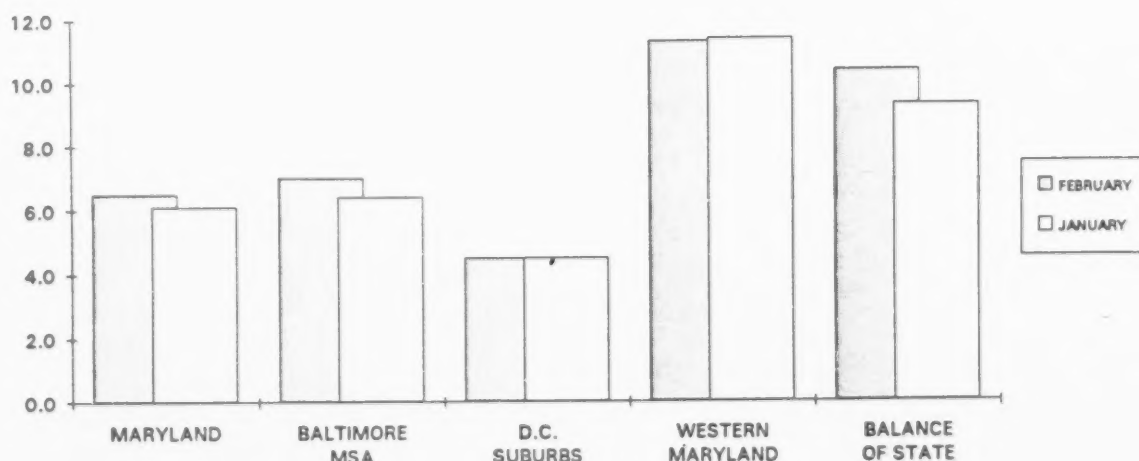
BALANCE OF STATE

Labor market activity in the Balance of State Area also showed signs of increasing joblessness during February. More than 2,300 area residents joined the ranks of the unemployed, pushing the jobless rate up from 9.3 percent in January to 10.4 percent in February. Unemployment rates escalated in each of the area's local jurisdictions with the exception of Worcester County where an upswing in employment eased unemployment down from 17.3 percent to 15.8 percent. Even with this decline, Worcester continued to top the county unemployment chart for the fourth consecutive month. The largest rate hike, from 10.1 percent to 14.1 percent, occurred in Cecil County where furloughs among workers in the auto and related industries contributed to increased claims activity.

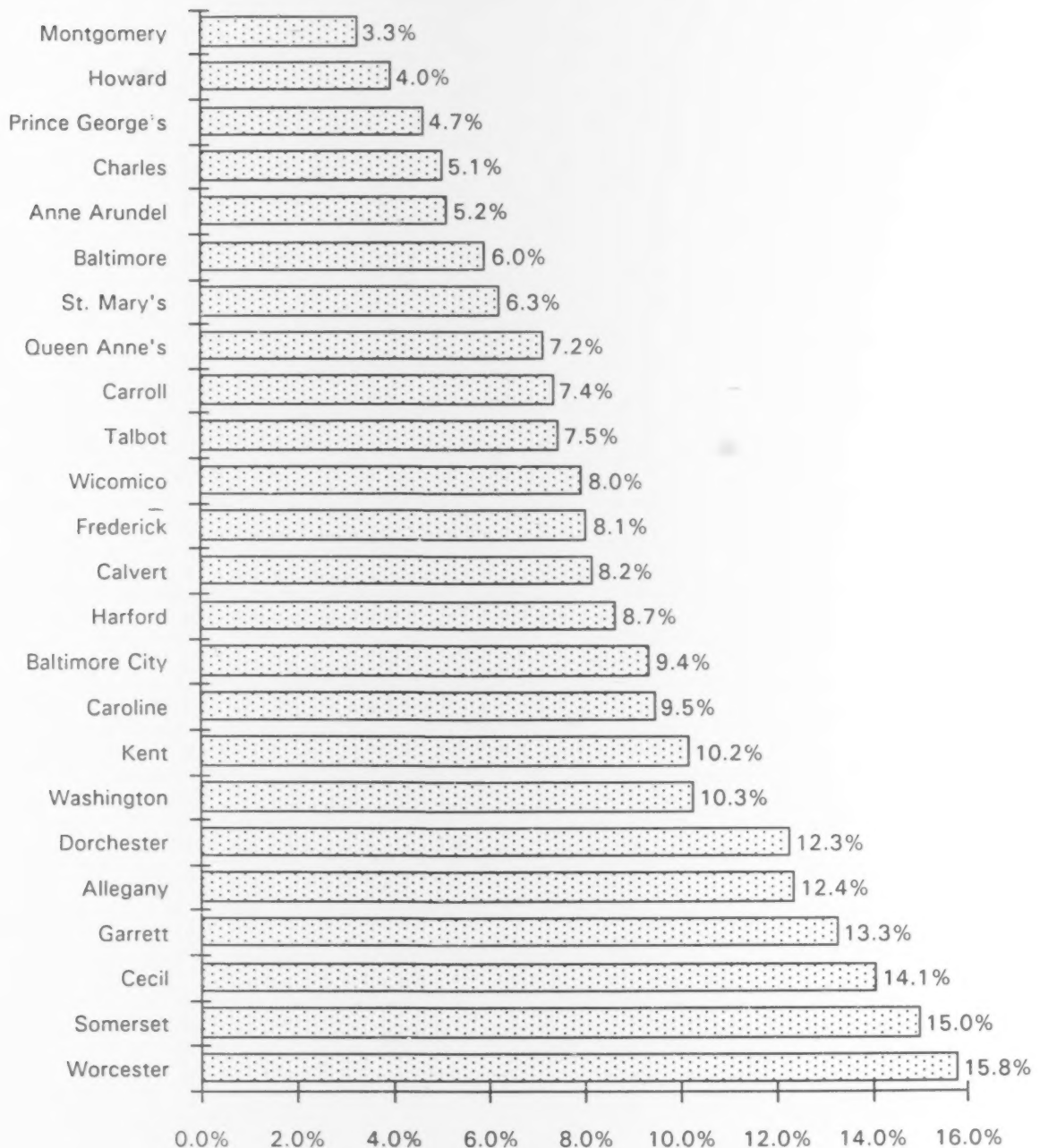
TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT - MARYLAND AND REGIONS

	FEBRUARY 1991		JANUARY 1991	
	NUMBER	RATE	NUMBER	RATE
MARYLAND	161,118	6.5	152,087	6.1
BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA	83,349	7.0	76,365	6.4
MARYLAND'S D.C. SUBURBS	43,959	4.5	44,190	4.5
WESTERN MARYLAND	12,221	11.3	12,303	11.4
BALANCE OF STATE	21,589	10.4	19,231	9.3

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES - FEBRUARY 1991



LOCAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATES-FEBRUARY 1991



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE OF LABOR MARKET ANALYSIS AND INFORMATION
1100 NORTH EUTAW STREET
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201

STATE OF MARYLAND
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT
BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE

FEBRUARY 1991

AREA	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE		EMPLOYMENT		UNEMPLOYMENT		UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	FEBRUARY	JANUARY*	FEBRUARY	JANUARY*	FEBRUARY	JANUARY*	FEBRUARY	JANUARY*	FEB. 1990
MARYLAND	2,489,630	2,476,108	2,328,512	2,324,021	161,118	152,087	6.5	6.1	4.1
BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA	1,193,150	1,185,541	1,109,801	1,109,176	83,349	76,365	7.0	6.4	4.5
BALTIMORE CITY	339,911	338,397	307,881	307,708	32,030	30,689	9.4	9.1	7.0
ANNE ARUNDEL	211,560	210,296	200,474	200,362	11,086	9,934	5.2	4.7	3.0
BALTIMORE	385,758	383,442	362,428	362,224	23,330	21,218	6.0	5.5	3.8
CARROLL	63,535	63,161	58,819	58,786	4,716	4,375	7.4	6.9	3.6
HARFORD	84,397	82,783	77,087	77,043	7,310	5,740	8.7	6.9	4.9
HOWARD	91,991	91,423	88,274	88,224	3,717	3,199	4.0	3.5	2.0
QUEEN ANNE'S	15,996	16,039	14,838	14,830	1,158	1,209	7.2	7.5	4.2
D. C. AREA	980,231	976,782	936,272	932,592	43,959	44,190	4.5	4.5	2.8
CALVERT	23,673	23,581	21,740	21,655	1,933	1,926	8.2	8.2	3.8
CHARLES	47,016	46,795	44,604	44,429	2,412	2,366	5.1	5.1	2.7
FREDERICK	78,417	78,458	72,055	71,772	6,362	6,686	8.1	8.5	4.4
MONTGOMERY	418,057	416,433	404,235	402,647	13,822	13,786	3.3	3.3	2.2
PRINCE GEORGE'S	413,067	411,515	393,637	392,090	19,430	19,425	4.7	4.7	3.1
WESTERN MARYLAND	107,726	108,054	95,505	95,751	12,221	12,303	11.3	11.4	7.5
ALLEGANY	33,146	33,093	29,032	29,005	4,114	4,088	12.4	12.4	9.3
GARRETT	13,737	13,647	11,910	11,868	1,827	1,779	13.3	13.0	9.9
WASHINGTON	60,843	61,314	54,563	54,878	6,280	6,436	10.3	10.5	6.0
BALANCE OF STATE	208,525	205,697	186,936	186,502	21,589	19,231	10.4	9.3	5.5
CAROLINE	14,078	13,886	12,745	12,646	1,333	1,240	9.5	8.9	5.2
CECIL	37,371	36,406	32,119	32,716	5,252	3,690	14.1	10.1	7.2
DORCHESTER	17,375	17,301	15,234	15,378	2,141	1,923	12.3	11.1	8.8
KENT	9,017	8,817	8,098	8,027	919	790	10.2	9.0	6.5
ST. MARY'S	42,403	41,960	39,734	39,484	2,669	2,476	6.3	5.9	4.2
SOMERSET	12,336	12,092	10,491	10,333	1,845	1,759	15.0	14.5	11.4
TALBOT	17,490	17,295	16,178	16,105	1,312	1,190	7.5	6.9	4.5
WICOMICO	39,648	39,148	36,494	36,269	3,154	2,915	8.0	7.4	5.7
WORCESTER	18,807	18,792	15,843	15,544	2,964	3,248	15.8	17.3	11.9
¹ UNITED STATES	124,070,000	123,585,000	115,151,000	114,990,000	8,919,000	8,595,000	7.2	7.0	5.8

*Estimates for the state are revised.

¹

Source: U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

NOTE: Figures may not add due to rounding. These are estimates relating to the week of the 12th of each month. The count is of persons not jobs. All data are not seasonally adjusted.

NONAGRICULTURAL PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT* BY INDUSTRY--BY PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT
(IN THOUSANDS)
BY REGION--FEBRUARY 1991

Industry	BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA		MARYLAND PORTION D.C. SUBURBS		WESTERN MARYLAND		BALANCE OF STATE	
	February 1991	January 1991	February 1991	January 1991	February 1991	January 1991	February 1991	January 1991
Total Nonagricultural Employment	1,133.8	1,131.4	769.9	765.8	91.5	91.7	136.3*	135.0
Goods Producing	193.9	196.0	98.6	98.6	21.5	21.6	32.1	31.9
Mining	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.2	0.2
Construction	67.2	68.0	62.0	62.3	5.2	5.2	9.0	8.8
Manufacturing	126.2	127.5	36.1	35.8	15.6	15.7	22.9	22.9
Durable Goods	70.3	71.3	18.2	17.8	7.1	7.3	8.9	8.9
Nondurable Goods	55.9	56.2	17.9	18.0	8.5	8.4	14.0	14.0
Service Producing	939.9	935.4	671.3	667.2	70.0	70.1	104.2	103.1
Transportation & Public Utilities	55.0	55.0	33.4	33.3	5.0	5.0	7.3	7.2
Trade	260.3	263.4	195.6	197.2	25.8	26.2	33.0	33.1
Wholesale Trade	62.5	62.6	35.6	35.3	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.1
Retail Trade	197.8	200.8	160.0	161.9	20.8	21.2	28.0	28.0
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	75.5	75.5	46.1	46.1	3.1	3.1	4.9	4.9
Services	330.4	326.9	232.1	230.3	21.3	21.3	32.5	32.4
Total Government	218.7	214.6	164.1	160.3	14.8	14.5	26.5	25.5
Federal	50.2	50.5	72.5	72.6	1.8	1.8	6.8	6.8
State	72.5	71.4	17.8	17.2	4.7	4.7	5.7	5.1
Local	96.0	92.7	73.8	70.5	8.3	8.0	14.0	13.6

*The count is of jobs, not workers. It includes full and part-time wage earners employed during pay period including the 12th of the month.

NOTE: Figures may not add to totals due to rounding.

Additional industry detail available upon request. Current data preliminary; previous month revised.

Prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

	February 1991	January 1991	February 1990
Initial Claims	30,622	51,976	17,807
Weeks Claimed	334,233	313,108	187,805
First Payments	22,874	26,322	10,487
Final Payments	3,084	3,176	1,683
Weeks Paid	281,939	242,305	170,860
Net Benefit Amount	\$50,486,685	\$42,728,067	\$23,764,979
Average Check Amount	\$179.07	\$176.34	\$139.09

Following January's seasonal increase, initial claims filings reported by Maryland's unemployment insurance offices during February dropped by more than 20,000, or by just over 41.0 percent. While the number of initial claims dwindled, the high level of claims filed in January contributed to an increase in February's estimates of both weeks claimed and weeks paid.

Weeks claimed rose from 313,108 in January to 334,233 in February, for an increase of 6.7 percent. At the same time, the number of weeks compensated jumped by almost 40,000 to 281,939 in February. The ratio of weeks paid to weeks claimed increased to 84.4 percent in February, up from January's figure of 77.4 percent. Last February, the compensation rate was much higher at 91.0 percent.

During February, the average check amount rose for the third consecutive month to \$179.07. This increase in weekly allowance checks, coupled with a 16.4 percent increase in weeks paid, lifted February's benefit outlay to just under \$50.5 million, about \$7.8 million above January's disbursement and more than double February 1990's payout of about \$23.8 million.

Since last February, all unemployment compensation measurements have risen, with the largest increase, of just over 118 percent, occurring in the number of first payments. The downward trend in the economy over the past year has weighed heavily upon the ability of unemployed workers to find employment as illustrated by the appreciable rise, of about 83.0 percent, in the number of exhaustions since February 1990.

 Maryland
Department of Economic &
Employment Development

OFFICE OF LABOR MARKET ANALYSIS AND INFORMATION
1100 North Eutaw Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201



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